


WILMINGTON HEALTH
FISHGUARD AND GOODWICK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1947.

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District Health Department,
10, Picton Place,
Haverfordwest,

July, 1948.

To the Chairman & Members
of the Fishguard & Goodwick Urban District Council:

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the work of the Public Health Department of the Council for the year 1947. I must express my gratification to all officials, especially Mr. A. James, and to all members of the Council, for their assistance and co-operation.

With the hope that the following pages will prove informative and interesting,

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

W.J.Y. SPEEDY.

District Medical Officer.



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ESTIMATED MID-YEAR POPULATION FOR 1947.

4,600.

NATURAL INCREASE OF POPULATION FOR THE YEAR 1947.

32.

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BIRTHS & BIRTH RATES.

The following births occurred in the District during the year:-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
LIVE BIRTHS:			
Legitimate.	52.	40.	92.
Illegitimate.	2.	2.	4.
Totals.	54.	42.	96.
STILL BIRTHS:			
Legitimate.	2.	1.	3.
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
Totals.	2.	1.	3.

The above figures give a Birth-Rate of 20.9 i.e. 20.9 births per 1000 of the population. This Rate compares favourably with the Rate of 20.3 for the County of Pembroke, and 20.5 for the whole of England & Wales.

Still births account for 3%, and Illegitimate births 4%, of the total births. These figures are slightly above the average.

The trend of the Birth-Rate, generally, is in an upwards direction. The Birth-Rate for the District is maintaining this upward trend.

DEATHS & DEATH RATES.

The following deaths occurred in the District during the year:-

Males.	33.
Females.	31.
Total	64.

* The above figures give a Death-Rate of 13.9 i.e. 13.9 deaths per 1000 of the population. This Rate is slightly higher than the Death-Rate of 13.2 for the County of Pembroke, and a good deal higher than the average Death-Rate of 12.0 for the whole of England & Wales.

The causes of the above deaths are as follows:-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Diseases of the Heart & Circulatory System	6.	10.	16.
Cancer (all forms).	3.	5.	8.
Premature Births & Birth Injuries etc.	5.	2.	7.
Diseases of Brain & Nervous System.	2.	3.	5.
Acute Respiratory Diseases.	2.	3.	5.
Diseases of the Digestive System.	4.	1.	5.
Tuberculosis (all forms)	3.	1.	4.
Violent Deaths.	1.	3.	4.
Diseases of Kidneys & Urinary System.	1.	2.	3.
Influenza	2.	-	2.
Unclassified.	4.	1.	5.
Totals	33.	31.	64.

* Crude Birth & Death-Rates cannot be accurately compared one area with other, unless allowance is made for age-groups. However it may be of interest to consider the Rates for the County and England & Wales at the same time.

DEATHS & DEATH RATES (Continued).

Cancer accounts for 12% of total deaths. This is a reasonably average figure, but stresses the seriousness of Cancer as the cause of death.

Tuberculosis accounts for 6.2% of total deaths. This figure is somewhat above average.

The Infantile Mortality Rate, i.e. number of deaths of children under 1 year of age per 1000 births, is 61.2. This Rate is considerably higher than the Rate of 48.1 for the County of Pembroke, and the average Rate of 41 for the whole of England & Wales.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notification of Infectious Diseases has, in the past, been somewhat neglected. It is hoped that by mutual co-operation with General Practitioners that the notification Rate will reach 100%.

The following Infectious Diseases were notified during the year:

Measles.	4.
Scarlet Fever.	1.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	1.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	5.
* Non-Pulmonary Tuberculoses.	1.

The following deaths occurred from Infectious Diseases during the year:-

Bronchitis & Pneumonia.	4.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	3.
Influenza.	2.
* Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	1.

There was no undue prevalence of any particular Infectious Disease as judged by the notification list. 2 deaths from Influenza and 4 deaths from combined forms of Tuberculosis, are both rather high for the size and character of the District. Housing conditions have probably a direct bearing upon the number of cases of Tuberculosis.

Premises disinfected after Infectious Disease amounted to 15. Concurrent disinfection was carried out in cases nursed at home.

Deaths from Infectious Diseases accounted for 15.6% Total Deaths.

* Not strictly an Infectious disease, but included for completeness of report.

1875

1876

1877

1878

1879

CONTROL OF FOOD.

The following premises are registered in the District in accordance with the Food & Drugs Act 1938:-

Ice-cream Premises.	5
Prepared Food Premises.	10
Slaughter Houses.	nil
Knackers' Yards.	nil

29 inspections of registered premises were carried out during the year. The general hygienic standard in these premises leaves much to be desired. It is essential that workers in these premises should have ample facilities for washing of their hands with hot water and soap.

The transportation and delivery of food in the District appears to be satisfactory.

The following foods were condemned during the year:-

Condensed Milk.	187 tins.
Vegetables (all kinds).	270 lbs.
Meat (Fresh & Preserved).	275 lbs.
Fruit.	817 lbs.
Preserves.	50 lbs.
Fish.	18 lbs.
Sweets.	18 lbs.

MILK SUPPLIES.

A summary of Milk Producers & Vendors in the District is as follows:-

PRODUCER-WHOLESALEERS:-

Designated.	1.
Non-Designated	1.

PRODUCER-RETAILERS:-

Designated	1.
Non-Designated	6.

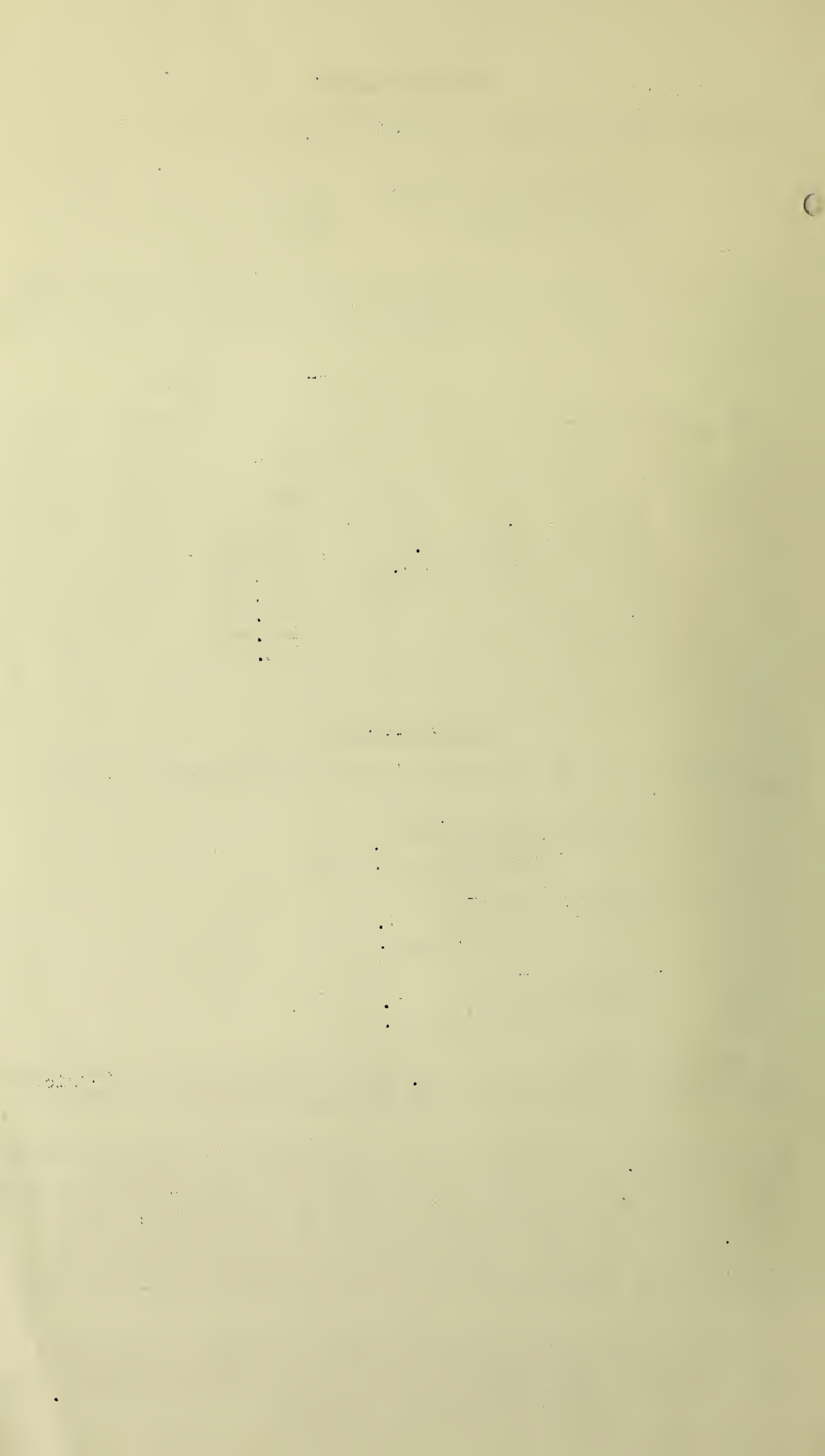
RETAILERS ONLY:-

Designated	1.
Non-Designated	13.

The approximate amount of Designated Milk consumed in the District (i.e. T.T. or accredited milk) is .05%. The approximate amount of Pasteurised Milk consumed in the District is nil %.

Thus it will be evident that the vast majority of milk consumed is Un-graded. Many diseases can be attributed, directly or indirectly, to milk. The most important of these are Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis (Bovine Tuberculosis), Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Typhoid Fever, and Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis). Bovine Tuberculosis causes immense suffering and crippling, especially in children. The only method of rendering a milk free from these diseases is by Pasteurisation. As a first step all Un-graded or Non-Designated Milk should be Pasteurised.

From the section on Infectious Diseases it will be seen that 1 fresh case of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis occurred in the District during the year, and 1 death resulted from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. These are both probably attributable to Milk.



MILK SUPPLIES. (Continued)

18 bacteriological samples of milk were taken during the year: of these 5 proved to be Un-satisfactory.

36 inspections of Cowsheds & Dairies were carried out during the year.

The general standard of production and distribution of milk in the District is low. Forceful action is required to raise this standard to a reasonable level.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Approximately 96% of premises in the District are connected to the water mains. The number of new premises connected during the year was 26. A strong effort to connect all premises to the mains should be made, as an adequate supply of water ready to hand is a big factor in maintaining the individual, and hence the Public Health.

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14 chemical analyses, and 14 bacteriological samples of water were taken during the year. All these proved to be satisfactory.

The source of 99% of the Water supply of the District is the gathering ground at Pontygotty. This water passes direct, through mains to a modern filtration and treatment plant at Penwallis: it then passes through a small holding reservoir of 100,000 gallons and hence into the Service mains. The absence of an Impounding Reservoir at Pontygotty is to be regretted. Also a Holding Reservoir to hold approximately 10 days supply of water is desirable, if not a necessity. The present Holding Reservoir holds approximately a $\frac{1}{2}$ days' supply.

The Goodwick Harbour area is supplied by water which originates in a stream near Mathry in the Haverfordwest Rural District. This water passes through an improvised filtration and chlorination plant, and has been satisfactory for consumption up-to-date.

HYGIENE & SANITATION.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

A systematic collection of Refuse is organised throughout the District. Collections are made, at present, once weekly. Although this appears to be satisfactory, it is desirable in an Urban District to have more frequent collections particularly in the summer months.

Refuse is disposed of by tipping on Goodwick Moor. The success of this scheme depends upon its proper control. It is essential if nuisance is to be avoided and full benefit of reclaimed land is desired that refuse be covered with a suitable material as it is tipped. This is being done with waste material from the Brickworks.

The type and standard of bins provided for refuse by householders is, in many cases, un-satisfactory and a danger to Public Health. Refuse containers should be of metal and be provided with an air-tight lid.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Nil.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

One smoke nuisance from the Goodwick Brick Works was reported during the year. Contact was made with the occupiers and steps taken to abate the nuisance.

GENERAL NUISANCES.

10 Informal notices, and 5 Formal notices were served during the year for the abatement of nuisances. One case was taken to the Court of Summary Jurisdiction.

The chief nuisance consisted of Defective Drains, and accumulation of offensive matter.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Approximately 90% premises are connected to sewerage mains. During the year 7 premises were thus connected, plus the new Housing Estate of 50 houses.

Sewerage is disposed off, without treatment, into the sea between low & high water mark. This disposal is un-satisfactory both from aesthetic and Public Health points of view. If discharged above low water mark there should be some preliminary form of treatment e.g. settling tanks; otherwise it should be discharged beyond low-water mark.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

There are 2 Public Conveniences in the District, one in Fishguard, and one in Goodwick. The general state of cleanliness of these is good, and few complaints have been made.

Two further conveniences are required in the District i.e. one in Goodwick Promenade, and one in Lower Fishguard. The absence of these interferes with the amenities of the District, and indirectly is a source of danger to the Public Health.

CONTROL OF VERMIN.

Two surveys for Rat infestation were carried out during the year. As a result of these the degree of infestation was estimated as moderate. Action was taken and the estimated kill amounted to 286 rats. To maintain control over rats 4 surveys should be carried out during the year, and disinfection campaigns planned accordingly.

Two Council employees are trained as operators and this appears to be adequate.

No infestations of other vermin were reported.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is one such premises in the District. The general state of cleanliness is good, and no adverse reports were received during the year.

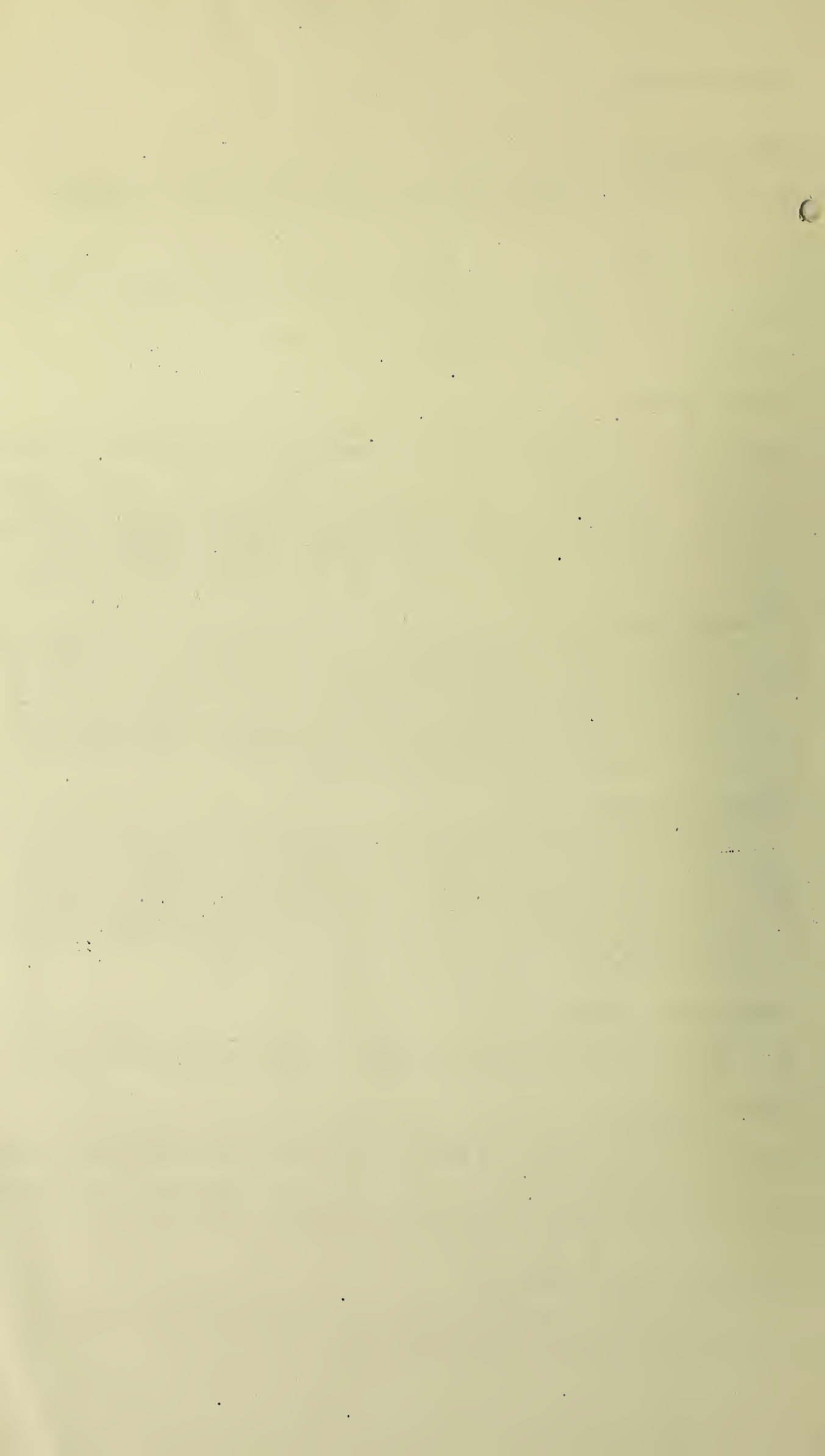
STREET CLEANSING.

Streets have been cleaned once weekly during the year. An endeavour should be made to carry out bi-weekly or tri-weekly cleanings during the summer months.

Cleansing is carried out during the early morning. The danger to Public Health from street cleansing during shopping hours is a real one, and these hours should be avoided.

SANITATION OF PUBLIC PLACES.

The sanitary accommodation of Schools, Entertainment Halls, Cafes, and Licensed Premises leaves much to be desired. These premises will be subject for special report.



FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS.

There are 42 premises in the District subject to the Factories Act of 1937. The most important of these are the Brick Works, the Ship yards, the Builders' yards, and vehicle repair shops.

51 inspections of above premises were carried out during the year. 7 defect were found and reported, and consisted chiefly of lack of cleanliness and insufficient sanitary accommodation.

No formal action was taken in regard to these premises.

HOUSING.

It is difficult to form a true picture of the Housing situation in the District without an up-to-date survey. Such a survey is urgently needed.

At Jan. 1st 1947, approximately 150 families required re-housing: during the year 22 families were re-housed: at Dec. 31st there were 165 families requiring re-housing. So it will be seen that the Housing situation was worse at the end of the year than at the beginning.

At Jan. 1st 1947 there were 123 cases of over-crowding: 9 cases were relieved during the year: at 31st Dec. 1947 there were still 118 cases of over-crowding. Although something positive was accomplished here, the rate of relief is too low to materially affect the situation.

During the year 29 new houses were under construction, and 23 new houses were completed. 18 informal and 12 formal notices for repairs to houses were served. No Demolition Order was served, but one premises was demolished on a Demolition Order from the previous year.

It is estimated that 30 new houses will be constructed during 1948.

Housing is now regarded as one of the most important factors in respect of the health of the people. A more intensified housing programme is required in the District.

16 families are temporarily housed in Cwmbrandy Camp. Living conditions here are un-hygienic, and the degree of over-crowding severe. This Camp should be given the prompt attention of the Council.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year 40 children were innoculated. This figure is rather low, but is due to the fact that Immunisation clinics were only arranged during the latter part of the year.

The object is to immunize every child before reaching the age of 1 year; then to re-inforce this immunisation when starting school (aged 5 - 6) and again half-way through school (aged 10 - 11).

From July 5th 1948, Diphtheria Immunisation will be the responsibility of the County Council.

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES.

School Medical Service, the Maternity & Child Welfare Service, Home Nursing, Health Visiting, and Domestic Help Service are organised by the County Council.

PORT SANITATION.

As a Port Health Authority the Urban Council have to carry out the duties relating to Port Health including the Sanitation of Ships etc. The ships arriving and departing from Fishguard Harbour are limited to Cross Channel Services to Eire and generally speaking examination of Aliens at the Port of arrival do not apply. It sometimes happens that foreign going ships put into the Harbour for repairs or other emergencies, but during the year no Certificates of Practique have been applied for.

The ships plying at the Harbour are those owned by the British Railways and the Cork Steam Packet Company.

Inspections of these ships have been carried out during the year and no action has been called for in respect of crews quarters or general sanitation. The standard of Crew Accommodation and Sanitation is good. During the year the Services have been limited to a three day a week passage to Cork. Three days a week to Waterford and during the year a three day per week service was run to Rosslare.

The quantity of imports have been limited and it is a long way from the pre-war volume of import traffic. This applies also to the volume of cattle arriving at the Port.

Foods imported have been kept under observation, the major portion of that arriving is under Licence with the Ministry of Food and can be assumed as Crown Imports.

Total Food condemned at the Port amounted to 3,009 lbs.

